for public office, based upon Western as well as Chinese subjects, Fiscal reform was projected. Army reorganization was planned, and a part of it was carried out, especially by Yuan Shih-k'ai, in the North. A commission sent to the United States and Europe studied the forms of government in use there, a constitution was promised, and steps were taken looking toward the introduction of representation based upon popular election. Provincial assemblies and a National Assembly were convoked, the former in 1909 and the latter in 1910.

Given more competent leadership, the dynasty might have made the needed adjustments. As it was, the new wine proved too potent for the old wineskins. November 15, 1908, the Empress Dowager died, presumably preceded by only a few hours by the Emperor Kuang Hsu. With the passing oi Tz'u Hsi went the last outstanding figure in the imperial house. The infant heir apparent came to the throne (under the reign name of Hsiian Tung) and the regent did not have the force of character required by the times. Under these circumstances, the dynasty was easily upset.

The revolution which overthrew the Ch'ing broke out in Hankow and Wuchang in October, 1911, the 10th being the day that is celebrated. There had been unrest in the Yangtze Valley, particularly in Szechwan, over a foreign loan to finance railways in South, Central, and West China and an accompanying greater centralization of railway administration under Peking. By the end of September, 1911, an active revolt had arisen in Szechwan. A fortuitous incident in Hankow brought about the premature inception of a more widespread outbreak. Troops in Wuchang, mutinying, forced their commander, Li Yuan-hung,

to lead them in the new movement, a republic was declared, and the strategic cities Wuchang, Hanyang, and Hankow quickly fell to the rebels. So unexpected had been the uprising in the Wuhan center that it surprised even the most ardent anti-imperialists.

Peking called to its assistance Yuan Shih-k'ai. Yuan had been dismissed soon after the beginning of the new reign, probably because of his betrayal of the regent's brother, the late Emperor Kuang Hsu, in 1898. As the creator of the strongest army in the country, he appeared indispensable. He responded somewhat deliberately to the frantic summons for help and came only on